

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AID/NE/ME:NLSWEET/WFAULKNER;NEA/ARN:TCAROLAN
APPROVED BY NEA:ARDBY
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER (DRAFT)
AID/NE:RHNOOTER (DRAFT)
AID/NE/CD:STAUBENBLATT (SUBS)
S/S: S. GOLDSMITH

-----080557Z 111483 /22

P R 080153Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T STATE 004323

EXDIS, FROM ATHERTON AND NOOTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JO, US, IS

SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM -- NEXT STEPS

REF: (A) AMMAN 7583, (B) STATE 276051, (C) STATE 309283

1. WE DO INDEED INTEND, IN OUR PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS, TO COVER BROADEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF MAQARIN DAM AND NOT RPT NOT CONFINE OURSELVES ONLY TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO WATER FLOW AND PRECIPITATION DATA. YOU MAY MAKE THIS CLEAR IN YOUR PRESENTATION TO KING HUSSEIN.

2. WE ALSO INTEND TO CONVEY TO THE ISRAELIS OUR EXPECTATION
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THAT, IN RETURN FOR OUR PROVIDING HARZA'S INTERIM REPORT TO GOI, THEY WILL FULFILL THEIR EARLIER COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS LISTED REFTTEL B. IN LATTER CONNECTION, WE AGREE THAT QUESTION J NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE PURSUED FOR TIME BEING, BUT WE WOULD NOT WISH TO SOFT-PEDAL SUCH ISSUES AS ISRAELI USE OF JORDAN RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN WATERS COVERED UNDER QUESTION A.

SEEMS TO US THAT INFORMATION ON ALL THESE ISSUES IS

REQUIRED IN ORDER FOR US TO FORMULATE COMPLETE PICTURE
OF TOTAL USAGE OF SUCH WATERS BY BOTH PARTIES.

3. IN INTEREST OF PRESERVING INFORMAL CHARACTER OF OUR
GOOD-OFFICES ROLE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, WE BELIEVE THAT
U.S. TEAM'S PROPOSED VISIT TO ISRAEL (PARA 5 REFTEL C)
SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN A TECHNICAL, RATHER THAN POLITICAL,
CONTEXT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS VISIT WILL INEVITABLY
CARRY CERTAIN POLITICAL OVERTONES, BUT WE WANT TO KEEP
THEM TO A MINIMUM AT THIS STAGE OF OUR ENDEAVORS.
ACCORDINGLY, WE DO NOT RPT NOT PROPOSE TO INCLUDE
"POLITICAL" PERSONALITIES IN TEAM'S MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE
CONFIDENT, BASED ON AHERTON'S DISCUSSION OF MAQARIN
PROJECT WITH SENIOR ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICIALS ON NOV 19,
THAT GOI IS SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF SENIOR U.S. INTEREST
IN THIS PROJECT AND THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH
TO IT.

4. WE AGREE WITH YOUR JUDGMENT THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL
FOR BAXTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TEAM'S DISCUSSIONS IN
ISRAEL, AND WE WILL SEEK TO INCLUDE HIM IF AT ALL POSSIBLE

5. WE PREFER TO SEE THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS HELD IN
ISRAEL RATHER THAN IN WASHINGTON. THIS WILL ENABLE OUR
TEAM TO HAVE ACCESS TO WIDER RANGE OF ISRAELI TECHNICAL
EXPERTISE AND THEREBY FACILITATE MORE COMPLETE AND
ACCURATE COLLECTION OF DATA. WE WOULD OF COURSE INSIST
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TO THE ISRAELIS THAT CONFIDENTIALITY OF TEAM'S
DISCUSSIONS BE FULLY PROTECTED, IN ORDER TO ALLAY
HUSSEIN'S UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN IN THIS REGARD. (FOR
TEL AVIV: REQUEST YOUR ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER GOI CAN
BE DEPENDED UPON TO DO THIS.) WE ASSUME APPROPRIATE
OFFICERS FROM EMBASSY STAFF WOULD ACCOMPANY TEAM MEMBERS
TO THEIR MEETINGS WITH ISRAELI TECHNICAL EXPERTS, THUS
CONTRIBUTING (TO A CERTAIN EXTENT) THE "POLITICAL"
ATMOSPHERE SUGGESTED PARA 3 REFTEL A WITHOUT CHANGING
TECHNICAL CONTEXT OF TEAM'S DISCUSSIONS.

6. WE LEAVE TO YOUR JUDGMENT HOW BEST TO CONVEY TO
HUSSEIN, IF NECESSARY, THE ESSENCE OF PARA 7(G) REFTEL C.
IT IS ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER, THAT WE GET ACROSS TO HIM
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) IT IS IN JORDAN'S BEST INTEREST TO FACILITATE
COLLECTION OF FULLEST POSSIBLE TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR
INCLUSION IN HARZA'S FINAL REPORT, REGARDLESS OF SOURCE;

(B) PROVISION OF HARZA'S DRAFT INTERIM REPORT TO THE
ISRAELIS ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS IS ONLY MEANS AVAILABLE
TO US OF ENSURING THEIR COOPERATION IN THIS EFFORT, SINCE
THEY WOULD OTHERWISE SUSPECT THAT INFORMATION AFFECTING
THEIR OWN INTERESTS WAS BEING WITHHELD FROM THEM; AND

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(C) WE HAVE REVIEWED THE DRAFT INTERIM REPORT THOROUGHLY
AND CONCLUDE THAT ITS DISCLOSURE TO GOI WILL NOT RPT NOT
ADVERSELY AFFECT JORDAN'S NEGOTIATING POSITION.

7. IF KING REMAINS ADAMANT IN HIS REFUSAL TO RELEASE
HARZA'S DRAFT INTERIM REPORT TO THE ISRAELIS, YOU WILL
HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY TO IMPRESS ON HIM THE UNAVOIDABLE
CONSEQUENCES OUTLINED PARA 7(G) REFTTEL C. WE REMAIN
CONVINCED THAT GOI -- WHICH IS ALREADY UNEASY AND
SUSPICIOUS ABOUT JORDANIAN AND U.S. INTENTIONS IN THIS
MATTER -- WILL PERSIST IN ITS REFUSAL TO COOPERATE
UNLESS AND UNTIL IT IS ALLOWED TO REVIEW THE INTERIM
REPORT; A SANITIZED VERSION, IN OUR VIEW WOULD NOT RPT
NOT SATISFY THEM, BUT ONLY MAKE THEM MORE SUSPICIOUS.
AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL D, HARZA WILL INCORPORATE THOSE
CHANGES RECOMMENDED AT THE NOV 29-30 CONFERENCE IN ITS
DRAFT FINAL REPORT. HARZA DOES NOT PLAN TO REVISE ITS
INTERIM REPORT.

KISSINGER

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